

Remarks/Arguments

I. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the paragraph at the top of page 9, lines 1-10, as not appearing to accurately reflect the invention shown in the drawings. The subject paragraph is replaced herein. In the paragraph, the center front lift pulley was inadvertently referenced as the front lift pulley, and the front lift pulley was inadvertently referenced as the center lift pulley. Appropriate changes are made herein to correct the inadvertent error. The changes add no new matter to the application.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 2, 3, 5, 21, 26, and 34 are objected to in the Office action due to various informalities. These claims are amended herein to address the informalities. It is believed that these claims are now in proper form for allowance and such indication is respectfully requested. It should be noted that none of the amendments narrow the scope of protection of any of the claims, but rather address the informalities identified by the Examiner.

III. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 12, 13, 15-21, 26, and 28-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by German patent 94 11 573.7 to Gottlob (hereafter "Gottlob"). Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, and 27-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,527,243 to Chen (hereafter "Chen"). Claims 1, 2, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,580,240 to Yu (hereafter "Yu"). Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent to Ellis (hereafter "Ellis"). Finally, claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yu in view of U.S. Patent 5,533,953 to Lui et al (hereafter "Lui").

Claims 1, 12, 25, 29, and 34 are independent claims. As amended herein, each independent claim now generally recites a four bar linkage associate with press plate mechanism. It is believed that none of the cited references (i.e., Gottlob, Chen, Yu, Ellis, and Lui), alone or in combination, anticipate or render obvious the independent claims. Further, under the section

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"Allowable Subject Matter" on page 12 of the August 12, 2003 Office action, it is indicated that "the prior art of record does not disclose the invention as claimed wherein the foot press plate forms a four bar linkage, as described, linked to a seat structure with a pivotal back support (claims 3, 5, and 24). It is believed that claims 1, 12, 25, 29, and 34, as amended herein, comport with the subject matter that is indicated as allowable.

As such, it is respectfully believe that claims 1, 12, 25, 29 and 34 are in form for allowance and such indication is requested. Further, as all of the remaining claims depend from and include the limitation of the independent claims, it is believed that claims 2-11, 13-24, 26-29, and 30-33 are also in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claim 11. Further, it is indicated that claims 3, 5, 7 and 24 would be allowable if written in independent form. In response thereto, claim 7 has been amended herein to be in independent form and include the limitations of claim 1. Thus, claim 7 is believed to be in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested. Claims 3, 5 and 24, however, have not been amended at this time. For the reasons recited above, it is believed that the independent claims, as amended herein, from which claims 3, 5 and 24 depend, are allowable. The Applicant reserves the right to amend claims 3, 5 and 24 at a later date.

Conclusion

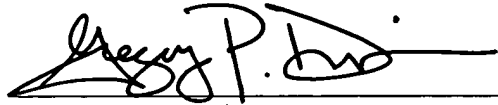
No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment other than the \$950 for a three month extension of time to respond to the August 12, 2003 Office action. A check in the amount of \$950 is enclosed. However, if any application processing fees are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 04-1415.

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The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned via telephone to address any issues regarding the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Dated: January 20, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory P. Durbin", is written over a horizontal line.

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